



ICRC

FACTS & FIGURES

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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

In Nigeria's north-east, prolonged displacement caused by the conflict has compounded vulnerabilities and increased dependence on humanitarian assistance for several million people. The cholera outbreak that hit Borno state reportedly affected thousands, most of them displaced by the conflict. Humanitarian agencies coordinated efforts to contain the epidemic. While some assisted the Ministry of Health in treating the patients, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) focused on re-hydration in ICRC-supported health clinics, chlorination of water and the promotion of hygiene to control the spread of the disease in Dikwa, Jere, Maiduguri and Monguno. Food scarcity remains a concern, especially in areas of Borno state which remain out of reach for humanitarian agencies due to prevailing insecurity. The displaced people with access to farming land who have received seed and agricultural tools are expecting harvest of staple crops (maize, rice, millet, beans and sorghum) in November. The shortfall of rain and the drought are expected to seriously affect the yield.

The ICRC continues raising protection issues of the conflict-affected children, women and detainees with relevant stakeholders to alleviate their suffering. More than a quarter of displaced persons are searching for their lost relatives. The ICRC, with help of the national Red Cross societies in the Lake Chad region, are searching for almost 11,600 separated family members. Apart from the conflict in the north-east, communal clashes in the Middle Belt and urban violence in the Niger Delta have led to forced displacement, disruption of health services and long-term psychological trauma. The ICRC and the NRCS are working to help meet basic needs for food, shelter, access to water and health services.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Farming has been inconsistent in many areas of the north-east, and the lack of food remains one of the most urgent humanitarian needs. The situation of the most vulnerable, such as children, women and the elderly, is of particular concern. They will remain dependent on aid for some time to come and sustained food assistance will be necessary to prevent further malnutrition and death. Those returning to homes that they had abandoned in search of security are apprehensive about rebuilding livelihoods.

The ICRC, in partnership with the NRCS, aims at meeting the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas through the distribution of food and essential household items to the displaced, returnees and vulnerable residents.

The ICRC has started, whenever feasible, to move from emergency food relief to greater support to livelihood initiatives for these affected communities, identifying with them ways and avenues to provide more durable and sustained solutions centered around resilience and self-reliance. It seeks to support sustained livelihoods through the provision of improved seed for farming activities as well as cash and vouchers in areas with active markets. In particular, households where women, especially widows are the main breadwinners, receive cash for the purchase of items that they consider the most important.

In all:



Almost **400,000** people in the north-east and the Middle Belt regions received food for three months or longer;



Almost **48,000** people in the north-east and the Middle Belt received essential household items,

such as cooking pots and water containers, as well as clothes, hygiene products, and sleeping and shelter materials;



Around **446,000** returnees and residents who had been isolated in conflict affected areas received agricultural inputs including seeds, machinery and tools to start farming or to increase their crop production;



About **80,000** people, including widows, received cash to cover their basic needs for starting an income generating activity.



We provided Sarah, a victim of communal violence in Cross River State, with the cash assistance needed to resume her garri business. Photo: ICRC/ David-West Egede Tekena

HEALTH CARE

The onset of armed conflict exacerbated the already difficult access to health care in the north-east of Nigeria, whose development had lagged behind the rest

of the country. Many clinics and health care centres were destroyed and the health personnel fled for safety. The ICRC continues supporting primary health care centres of the Ministry of Health in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states with medicine and technical support for the identification and treatment of diseases.

Two ICRC surgical teams provide care for the wounded in need of emergency surgical care in the north-east, while the ICRC trains staff of Nigerian hospitals country-wide to enhance their skills in the treatment and management of wounded patients. Furthermore, the ICRC also provides psycho-social support for trauma-affected victims of the armed conflict and the NRCS volunteers working to assist them. The ICRC first aid training programme spans over 15 states and includes north-eastern, the Middle Belt and Niger Delta states.

In all:



Close to **405,000** patients attended **23** ICRC-supported centres for primary health care and **3** mobile clinics serving the displaced, returnees and residents in north-east Nigeria and the Middle Belt;



Over **19,500** children were delivered in ICRC supported clinics;



A health worker consults in a Primary Health Care facility supported by the ICRC in Yola, Adamawa State. **Photo: ICRC/Fatima Adamu**



Around **6,500** children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition were treated in ICRC-supported clinics in north-east Nigeria, including over **210** children with medical complications from Borno South treated in Biu stabilization centre;



Over **1,500** patients benefited from free surgical care with over **950** of them treated as out-patients while **550** patients were admitted to the ICRC surgical ward;



Over **8,000** community members and health staff attended **150** sessions dealing with mental issues stemming from conflict related to violence;



Almost **5,510** displaced persons benefitted from ICRC's mental health and psychosocial support **390** victims of violence received group

counselling support while **90** hospitalized wounded patients benefited from individual counselling. In all, **1,545** group and 135 individual MPHSS sessions were conducted;



Around **6,000** casualties were treated and evacuated by the NRCS emergency first aid teams, while **660** community first aid responders were trained in 15 states.

WATER AND HABITAT

The high numbers of displaced people in the north-east put a strain on basic resources, such as water and sanitation installations. The ICRC creates or upgrades water points and sanitation facilities in the camps for the displaced and affected host communities. It also builds tents and emergency shelters.

To promote hygiene in the camps, the ICRC works with the NRCS and displaced persons on cleaning the environment. In areas where returns are possible, the ICRC has stepped up its work to repair or construct water systems benefitting both host communities and returnees.



The ICRC and NRCS provided building materials to rebuild over 500 homes destroyed by communal violence in Agatu, Benue State.

Photo: ICRC/ Charles Dashe

In all:



Over **213,000** displaced persons, returnees and residents in north-east Nigeria and Middle Belt got access to clean water; **16,000** residents of shanty towns in Port-Harcourt had access to safe drinking water through provision of boreholes, water storage and distribution networks;



Over **109,000** displaced persons in north-east Nigeria improved their sanitation and hygiene conditions;



Almost **36,500** returnees and persons affected by communal clashes in Adamawa, Plateau, Kaduna and Benue received ICRC support to rebuild their houses. The ICRC also

improved access to health services for **over 2,000** people through the construction and rehabilitation of health care facilities.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Many people lost contact with their families while fleeing the armed conflict or, more recently, when returning to their areas of origin. The situation is complex, as some have been displaced for a very long time, while others have had to flee on multiple occasions. Some decided to return to their home areas and start rebuilding their livelihoods.

The ICRC works with the NRCS and other Red Cross societies in the Lake Chad Region to locate, and where possible, reunite families. With the use of Red Cross messages and free phone calls, separated family members have been able to get back in touch with their displaced relatives.

In all:



6,640 new tracing requests were opened by persons looking for relatives with the ICRC or the NRCS;



A child in one of the camps for the displaced, after 3 years, was able to speak with his mother using the free phone call services. Photo: ICRC/ William Chibuzor



Almost **600** Red Cross messages containing family news were exchanged among separated family members;



1,070 free phone calls were made available by the Red Cross to persons searching for their family.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

In some **90** countries around the world, including Nigeria, the ICRC works to protect people affected by the armed conflict and other situations of violence. The displaced

persons in the camps and host communities in the north-east, as well as vulnerable groups affected by the armed violence in the Niger Delta and the Middle Belt, received visits of ICRC delegates to discuss their humanitarian concerns. The ICRC has taken up these protection concerns, through a confidential and bilateral dialogue, with State and Non-State armed groups in order to improve respect for the rights of the individuals and alleviate their suffering. Especially vulnerable people are supported to develop appropriate coping mechanisms aimed at reducing their vulnerability and exposure to risk.



130 visits were made by the ICRC protection team to camp authorities, security forces and leaders of displaced persons in Maiduguri, Jere, Monguno and Damasak in Borno state, to highlight the rights of civilians and the best international standards for their protection

PROTECTION OF PERSONS DETAINED IN RELATION TO THE CONFLICT

In Nigeria, the ICRC visits persons detained in relation to the armed conflict and other violence. It also supports the prison authorities in their attempt to ensure that the treatment and living conditions of detainees meet internationally recommended standards.

In all:



More than **23,520** detainees in prisons as well as police and military detention facilities country-wide were visited by the ICRC. Wherever needed, the detainees also benefited from improved access to clean water, sanitation or hygiene following ICRC rehabilitation activities and assistance;



Specifically, **450** detainees in Abuja had access to safe water through increased storage capacity by the ICRC while **9,800** detainees in various states received regular hygiene distributions and campaigns which improved their sanitation and hygiene conditions;



In Yola prison, **600** detainees benefitted from better water quality and quantity through a solar water supply project, and more than **1,000** detainees in Jos prison had new cooking facilities in the kitchen.

SUPPORT FOR THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (NRCS)

The ICRC continues to work with the network of Nigerian Red Cross Society, staff and volunteers around the country to meet the needs of vulnerable people in a rapid, secure and efficient manner. Several trainings are conducted for volunteers across the country by the ICRC.



Over 1,000 Volunteers and staff from Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Cross Rivers, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Kaduna, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun and Rivers branches were trained on how to

operate safely in sensitive and insecure environments to gain access to communities in need.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

Military and security forces, as well as civil organisations in almost **20** Nigerian states received information on the current humanitarian concerns, ICRC's work, international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL). The ICRC worked with academics and students from **27** Nigerian universities in order to enhance the teaching of IHL.

In all:



70 Nigerian scholars of IHL attended a workshop organised by the ICRC in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) where discussions centred on the challenges of implementing IHL and the way forward; **380** lecturers and students in all received support for the teaching, research and study of IHL;



Over **3,670** military personnel, including the Navy, Airforce and the Army in almost 20 Nigerian states, received information on the current humanitarian concerns and ICRC's work. In addition, almost **1000** police officers, law enforcement agents and non-state groups increased their knowledge of IHL and IHRL;



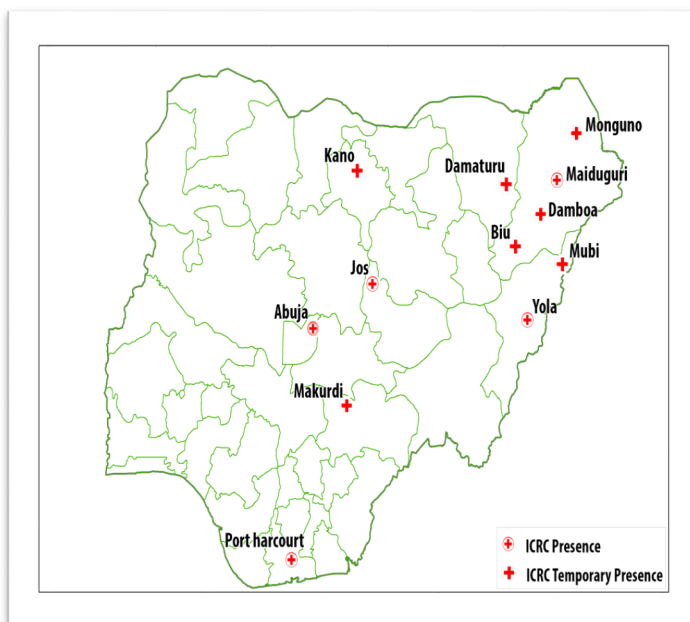
Over **24,000** people affected by conflict and violence received information on humanitarian services available to them.

THE ICRC IN NIGERIA

The ICRC protects and assists people affected by armed conflict and other violence in north-east Nigeria, as well as in the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta regions. It also promotes respect for the rules that protect people in such situations. Working with the NRCS and local communities, the ICRC delivers life-saving emergency assistance, provides first aid training and improves hygiene in the camps for the displaced.

The ICRC has had a permanent presence in Nigeria since 1988. Its main office is in Abuja, while **11** more offices are in the field to maintain the organisation's proximity to people affected by armed conflict or violence, to understand their needs and to respond appropriately.

At the end of September 2017, Over **600** national and international staff were working for the ICRC in Nigeria.



ICRC

ICRC in Nigeria

5 Queen Elizabeth Street, Asokoro District, Abuja, FCT

T: +234 700 5000 4000 Email : abj_abuja@icrc.org